



Dog Grooming Made Easy: How to groom your dog at home

Contents

Chapter	Particulars	Page
1	Introduction to Dog Grooming	3
2	Getting Prepared to Groom Your Dog	6
3	Tools for Grooming Your Dog	8
4	Bathing is an Art!	15
5	Daily Grooming and Examination	22
6	Managing Shedding in your Dog	24
7	Skin Care and Management	28
8	Caring for Ears	31
9	Keeping a Clean Foot	33
10	Treating Wounds and Cuts	35
11	Dental Care for Dogs	38
12	Eye Care for Dogs	43
13	Flea and Tick Care	44
14	Senior Dog Care and Grooming	46
15	Choosing a good groomer	47
16	Dog Owner's Responsibility and Duties	55
17	Interesting Facts on Dog Grooming	57
18	List of Resources for Dog Owners	60

"He who is cruel to animals becomes hard also in his dealings with men. We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."

-- Immanuel Kant



"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."

-- Unknown

Introduction to Dog Grooming

All dogs, irrespective of their breed, require regular sessions of grooming to keep them healthy and fit. Though there are different types of dog breeds, the method of grooming that is provided to each of them is almost the same excepting the care for their coat. Some of the most common grooming elements are nail trimming, ear cleaning, tooth brushing and general bathing. However the care and the range of grooming for a particular dog depends on its coat; longer the coat, more will be the grooming effort, and shorter the hair, lesser will be the extent of care.

A dog that is given regular grooming and care is obviously the well kept pet with plenty of energy and substance. On the flip side, a pet that is denied its rightful share of grooming always looks very lethargic, dirty and docile. As you see a dog, you'll come to know about its general state of health and well being; your dog's coat, skin and hair are the best indicators that describes how you have been maintaining your dog.

Caution: Dull and dry coat along with a flaky skin may indicate upcoming serious and dangerous problems.

Your pet dog is prone and liable to get skin infections, cuts, sores, wounds and scratches over a period of time. It is a natural thing, after all! It may also be pestered by irking pests and insects like fleas and mites, as these pests are known to thrive on dog's skin as parasites. When you care and groom for your dog, it is easy to identify and notice these common problems and take corrective actions. While younger dogs may not develop any serious health problems, old dogs may contract more permanent anatomical disabilities like lumps, lesions and tumors. By providing proper grooming for your dog, younger or older, you'll be able to avoid many future problems.

Regular grooming and care for your dog offers many benefits and advantages such as:

- Dogs that are provided grooming at an early age will be agile and active,
- These dogs tend to enjoy its life and experience only good things,
- However, the most important aspect of grooming is the close and affectionate bondage that is established between the pet owner and the pet. The time you spend interacting with the dog is a precious time of your life,
- Both the dog and the dog owner will become partners for their life,
- A well groomed dog spends most of its time with the family, inside the house and with utmost comfort.

The way you treat your dog, and the mode in which you provide grooming, could influence the way, in which the pet feels and thinks about its life. Dogs are among the most trustworthy pets on the planet, and its degree of fidelity with you increases with a corresponding jump in the way it is treated and looked after.

As a result, the health and overall condition of your dog depends entirely on the way in which you think and behave with your dog! This is amply demonstrated when you start thinking by wearing your pet's shoes! First of all, you will need to understand the importance of grooming and care.

Self test for checking your attitude about Dog Grooming:

Be honest! Choose the statement that best reflects your overall attitude!

<p>0 Marks– Do I require to care and groom for my dog? People tell me it is not necessary! They also exclaim- “After all it is a DOG!</p>	<p>5 Marks – When I take my dog for rounds, people start looking at him! And they say that they can’t spot any difference between his tail and the face!</p>	<p>20 Marks– I brush my pet once in a while, tie him up and run a hose of water to clean his dirty body! I let him dry himself under the Sun.</p>
<p>50 Marks –To my bad luck, I just can’t keep him clean and tidy! So I take him to a seasoned, professional groomer for grooming.</p>	<p>75 Marks – My doggy visits a professional groomer every often, at least once in a month for a session of grooming.</p>	<p>100 Marks- I care for my dog everyday and provide him the best care it deserves. I also take him to a groomer regularly.</p>

Which side of box are you residing in?

If you feel that you’re in the first quadrant, you may need to change your attitude about your dog, and start committing at least some time to groom your lovely dog. You may even start liking this ritual after some time! It is also possible to upgrade your overall attitude when you perceive the importance of grooming and its beneficial effects on your dog.

Consistent and regular grooming are often neglected by many dog owners and they also tend to overlook its importance as a mandatory pet care and management. Regular grooming by a professional groomer will give your dog a beautiful and a clean look. More often, you may need to accept the fact that grooming your dog is a necessary evil, without which your dog can never aspire to live a good and healthy life! To be a good owner, you’ll need to learn basic

aspects of grooming and pet management techniques. Though the job of grooming a pet dog is very tough and challenging, this could also be very thrilling and exciting, as you tend to get closer with your dog, both emotionally as well as socially.

There are several benefits of grooming your dog all by yourself, such as:

- ✓ **Physical Benefits:** Personalized grooming will keep the coat and hair, very tidy and neat. It also removes loose hair strands, dirt, grime and other skin irritants. As you physically groom your dog, you can notice and detect any changes on the skin and all potential health hazards. You can also remove all insects and pests hiding under the coat and later kill them. And, a dog that's groomed regularly looks healthier and more cared for.
- ✓ **Emotional Benefits:** Dogs are usually fickle minded and shy, as they tend to get away from people, if they are not socialized properly by its owners. Grooming your dog for general physical and health care will make its fears and aspersions go away, and grooming also makes your dog emotional stronger and tougher.
- ✓ **Permanent Bondage between You and the Dog:** When you develop a one to one relationship with your dog, you're ensuring a permanent bondage that is full of bliss and contentment. You'll also establish a silent channel of communication with your dog.
- ✓ **Invisible Health Benefits for You:** With your dog and its playful attitude, you stand to gain both emotionally as well as health wise.
- ✓ **Big Savings:** When you groom your dog all by yourself, the over all cost involved is very low, compared to that incurred, when a professional is hired. However, if you do not have time to groom the dog, you can hire a professional to do the necessary work.
- ✓ **Social Compatibility:** A well groomed dog is accepted by everyone, including your friends and colleagues, not to speak of a guest visiting your home.

Are you responsible to your pet dog? That is the vital question you must ask yourself; many a time, people tend to forget that they own a dog, and they have a mandatory duty to groom and tend it on a consistent basis. Whether you've a dog or any other domestic pet, you must ensure that it deserves only the best grooming care available in the town. As your skill-sets on pet grooming continues to grow and expand, you will start begin to see how important and vital of a matter this really is.

Getting Prepared to Groom Your Dog

Before you start grooming your dog, you'll need to get yourself ready to the task, by learning how to groom and also getting to learn how grooming tools are used in a practical manner. Assisting to find the right kind of tools and teaching you the ways to use them, is the sole duty of your puppy's breeding house. So, it makes sense to buy all the tools from your breeder!

To prepare for the spadework, you may need to ask some really important and critical questions:

Important: Ask yourself this critical question!

Are you and your family members really committed and dedicated to spending almost 10 years of your life to groom and care for your pet dog?

Once you answer this question, you'll need to assess the real life situation and arrive at a valid conclusion. However, you may also need to answer many questions like:

Do you have the time and resources available with you to groom and care for your pet dog? And, can you groom your dog as often as necessary?

Are you expecting any lifestyle changing incidents like arrival of a new baby, caring for old age people, a foreseeable divorce or a job renewal? More often, if these things happen (if at all), you will lose interest in your pet animal and start neglecting grooming and care for most obvious reasons.

Is your living ambience and environment fit enough to accommodate a pet dog? If yes, how big is it? Do you have a large backyard or a garden? Do you live in a city apartment dwelling? These are some of the important questions that need your positive answers. Many a time, people tend to neglect these aspects before they bring a puppy. It is not surprising to see that the puppy that is purchased for their homes is a big misfit for their living ambience!

If you and your spouse go out during the day, who is going to look after the pet dog? Do you have the patience to teach your dog and groom it well, so that they can be alone all through the day, without you or your spouse?

If you're a frequent traveler, grooming becomes very difficult and during this time, how do you ensure that your dog gets the best grooming experience possible?

Is your personality really conducive for owning a dog? Here is a small test to find out if you're compatible with a pet dog:

Self Test for Finding out How Compatible are You with Your Dog	
<i>1. I simply hate those loose strands of hair in my house.</i>	<i>1. When I see a dog, I feel like hugging it and showing my affection!</i>
<i>2. I don't like touching a dog and simply dislike a dog hugging me!</i>	<i>2. I just love to play with my dog as I groom and tend for its health and welfare!</i>
<i>If you YES, your compatibility level with your dog is a big ZERO! You may as well forget about raising a dog unless you change your attitude towards the pet canine!</i>	<i>If you YES, your compatibility level with your dog is a big PLUS! You're a true master to your pet dog and your concern for the health and welfare is just too good!</i>

Once you have purchased a lovely pup for your house, your duty starts immediately with caring for that tiny creature. The first grooming exercise you'll carry out is probably the feeding activity and making the pup feel comfortable in a warm bed!

But, be reminded that your responsibility can only increase as the pup grows older and becomes bigger in size. During this interlude, you will need to learn and practice the golden secrets of dog grooming and maintenance. Go out and meet your dog breeder and learn how to groom your dog. Take a ride to your community library to pick up some dog grooming magazine and self help guides. Or, log on to internet and start visiting one of those grooming web sites.

Once you learn the basics, you can always hone your skills by grooming your dog. Apart from the basics, you may need to learn operating various grooming tools and accessories, as some of the basic grooming activities involve using grooming tools and accessories on a consistent basis. Using grooming tools is an absolute art and you will preferably try learning the secrets of this very fine art!

Tip: Getting ready to groom your dog depends on your mental state and physical preparedness. Some people just want to groom their dog all through the day! By devoting a fixed amount of time everyday, you can create an absolutely lovely pet dog!

Tools for Grooming Your Dog

To groom your dog and to maintain its body, you'll need to collect the necessary sets of equipments and tools. Tools and equipments are indispensable for carrying out grooming operations. Upon using correctly, grooming tools and equipments contribute immensely to the overall condition of skin and hair of your pet dog. In fact, with right tools and equipments, you can create a good looking dog with a pleasing demeanor.

There are several types of tools and equipments that are specially designed for grooming purposes and you can choose a set that best serves your purpose. What one set works for a particular dog breed, may not really work for other breeds and as a result, you may wish to study your needs before buying them. Here are some of the tools that generally required carrying out grooming operations:

Brushes

Brushes are sold in a bewildering array of varieties and most of them come in many sizes and styles. However, three common types of brushes are sold in pet shops and these are:



1. **Bristle Brush**: This is an all purpose brush that can be used on dogs with any type of coat. Some of the build characteristics of these brushes are:

- ✓ Usually, bristle brushes are made from nylon or natural materials. Costlier varieties are made by combining the above two in a certain proportion. Among all brushes, this is the most popular for its build and flexibility of use.
- ✓ This brush is priced very reasonably and it can work on almost all types of coats,
- ✓ Nylon bristles are very hard and tough, and last a long time,
- ✓ The natural type of brush is also the costliest, as it is very safe for use on any type of coat,
- ✓ However, nylon brushes are quite tough on some skin and may cause injuries to many dog breeds,
- ✓ It may also create static electricity due to continuous friction created by combing action.
- ✓ Avoid continuous brushing with this brush and restrict each brushing session to about 15 minutes.
- ✓ As usual, clean the brush with a good antiseptic, on a regular basis.



2. **Pin Brushes:** These are special kind of brushes that are used quite extensively on tough to maintain breeds like Afghans, Lhasa, Shiu Tzus and some Terriers. Some of the characters of these brushes are:

- ✓ These brushes work wonderfully well on dog breeds like English Sheepdogs which have a tougher double coat of hair.
- ✓ You can buy a number of varieties of Pin brushes in any pet shop and models available here range from brushes used, for small breeds to large breeds.
- ✓ A special kind of brush called Pin Palm Brush is a unique brush used to groom the face and legs of tough terriers. These brushes have oval rubberized pads embedded in them to prevent damage to the coat of hair.



3. **Slicker Brushes:** To remove mat and dead strands of hair, you can use more sophisticated Slicker brushes that have specially created bent-wire teeth in their body. You can pick up three special sizes: small for sport and toy dogs, medium sized for average dogs, and extra large, for large breeds. These brushes can remove a large amount of hair and can be of help in reducing the unwanted dropping of hairs in your home interior. If you're raising your dog

for shows or a ring, forget about this brush, as you can never maintain maximum amount of hair on the body by using this brush.

Most of these brushes possess highly flexible, very short and overtly smooth bristles with oval or rounded ends. These can be used for either polishing the coat or for removing the dead strands of hair with least damage to the skin.

Combs

Combs form an important part of your dog grooming tool box, and you may need to collect a number of types of combs required for the grooming activity. Combs can be collected in many sizes and styles, with varying tooth lengths and spacing.

Here are some of the most commonly used combs:

Fine Toothed Combs: These combs are fine toothed and smooth in their combing action. They can be used on dog breeds with very sparse hair or silky like coat. These combs are very fine and provide a neat and tight looking coat on the dog's body.

Medium Toothed Combs: These combs have medium sized teeth and the space left between each tooth is medium in gap. They work well on dogs with medium coat or moderate tufts of hairs.

Coarse Toothed Combs: These combs are filled with coarse or rough edged teeth and the distance between each tooth is just enough to comb the tough hair of many tough coated dogs.

Here are some general tips to choose the best comb for your dog:

As combs are manufactured in many sizes, tooth lengths, their spacing and shapes, you'll need to be cautious while buying your own choice of comb. Some of them have very close teeth on one side and wide spaced teeth on the other. Before deciding to buy a comb you may need to decide how far and deep you would need the tooth of the comb to penetrate to reach the skin layer.

Some of the combs come with handles, while many others do not have them. To choose among the best combs, it is rather very easy, and you may prefer to buy a comb that has stainless steel or brass coated handle, with spring tempered teeth with rounded tips to prevent damage to the skin.



Fine toothed combs usually work deep on the surface of the skin to remove pests and lice. However, deep combing action may scratch the surface skin of the dog and help germs and fungus to create problems. Thus, after combing you may need to make sure that there are no scratches or wounds on the skin. If you see any wounds or scratches, ascertain that you are applying a good antiseptic solution. Combing a difficult dog like terriers is always quite

cumbersome, as they have a very tough coat of skin with intertwined hair strands. To comb such dogs, you'll need to use a large comb with its teeth set wide apart from each other.

Before buying a comb ensure that you follow these things:

- The tooth edge is not very sharp,
- The comb has different set of tooth on both sides,
- The teeth are firm and well laid,
- Buy a spare set of combs for use in case of an urgent need,
- The comb is sturdy with a steel or brass handle.

Stripping implements: These are used to groom and manage Show and Toy terriers and all other rough coated dogs. Simply speaking, stripping action involves the removal of dead hair strands by employing a special grooming technique. There are two ways of stripping your dog- a manual method that uses scissors and the other by using sophisticated stripping equipments. However, many professionals advocate plucking coat with fingers and thumb, and later use tools to refine the work.

The main purpose of stripping your dog is to:

- ✓ Ensure that you're removing all dead hair strands from the skin,
- ✓ Assure that there aren't any dead undercoat layers on the skin,
- ✓ Make sure that the dog's coat texture is kept in tact and perfect condition,
- ✓ To assure that color of the coat is maintained throughout the dog's life.

There are many types of stripping tools available for grooming your dog. Proper coat stripping could be carried out over a period of several weeks, depending on the growth of the coat and its texture. It also depends on the climate, coat pattern, health of the dog and other varying conditions. Before you start stripping your dog, guarantee that you seek professional groomer's advice and stick to those guidelines.

Here are some of the most commonly used stripping tools:



1. **Scissors:** To clip extra hair, you may use either a human scissor or a special scissor exclusively made for dog grooming. There are two types of scissors based on their use: ordinary clipping scissors and hair thinning shears. Ordinary scissors are equipped with jagged and sharp edges and this is used to clip thin hair. Thinning shears are made specially to cut a large amount of hair, on dogs like Pekingese and Pomeranian. Frankly speaking, there are no well known brands that can do the job of clipping efficiently; you may just wish to choose a tool that works fine to enable you to trim the hair well. The scissors you buy must be of good quality material and be very tough and durable. There are many domestic brands that can cost very little, but serve the overall purpose and grooming objectives very well.

When you purchase a pair of scissors make sure that:

- ✓ The gaps are properly arranged and set,
- ✓ On moving the handles, both the blades must make contact with each other,

- ✓ The movement should not be jerky and rickety. The effort that you put must be minimal and the blades should not get jammed,
- ✓ When you open and close a pair of scissors at a constant speed, you should listen to their even sound,
- ✓ Make sure that you buy one or two extra pair of scissors with different blade lengths and sharpness.

2. **Stripping Knives:** These grooming tools are used to maintain difficult dogs like terriers and schnauzers. Apart from pulling the loose hair, it can also be used effectively to trim the unwanted hair. However, you may need to use a combination of knives with long pins along with these tools to confirm that grooming session is carried out in a satisfactory manner.



Stripping knives are special in nature and complicated in build. Though there are many unbranded products available in the market, they may not be really good in their quality and build. Thus, it is better to purchase a premium quality, guaranteed and a well branded product that can give you an impeccable service with very good results. One of the main advantages of buying a branded product is that it can fit your dog's coat conveniently without any pain. You can also assure that the tough and coarse hair of your dog is stripped well for a good appearance. But, this may not work really well in the case of dogs that sport a weak coat and significantly sparse hair.

3. **Clippers:** Clipper is another important tool in the arsenal of a dog owner. To clip your dog's coat, human hair clipper simply never work and you will need to use a special dog clipper. There are many famous and well-known brands of clipper available in all pet shops.



Clippers come in many brands based on their proficiency and mode of work. Clippers are segregated in to amateur and professional types; professional clippers are long lasting and durable, work for a long time, but are very expensive and premium. Professional clippers can be used to trim and groom a number of dogs for many months, while an amateur clipper can be used only for a certain period of time. Amateur clippers are very simple to use, uncomplicated and barely sufficient.

As a thumb rule, professional clippers are supplied with an efficient electric motor and a reducer, while an amateur clipper just equipped with a vibration gear. Professional clippers sport many nozzles in its body, while an amateur clipper has fixed blades that are fixed firmly to the body of the unit. Special clippers allow you to modify the overall length of the hair to be left remaining on the coat up to 3

mm and also to change it; the unit is supplied with a set of plastic nozzles that can even leave up to 12 cm of hair on the skin.

To ensure a long life to the clippers, you may like to follow some guidelines like:

- ✓ Clean the nozzle with a special cleaning liquid, and later lubricate with an oil,
- ✓ You can use a battery pack to operate your clipper, in case there is no power,
- ✓ You may also need to use a hand clipper if the dog is found to be very dirty,
- ✓ As is quite difficult to clip the hair near the ears, using a hand operated clipper will provide a smooth grooming cut ,
- ✓ When you buy a clipper, inspect and test it for its usability and application, because some nozzles may be too rough in nature, which can really cause injuries to the skin layers.

4. **Nail Clippers:** Nails form an important body part in your dog and the pet needs constant nail grooming and care throughout its life. Nails grow very quickly and hence need periodical clipping sessions to keep them free of dirt and soil.



There are two types of nail clippers that can be used to groom your dog: one of guillotine style and the other with sickle blades. Some dogs possess thick and rigid nails, and you will most likely face problems while clipping these rigid nails. More often, guillotine type clippers do not work properly on these tough nails. Consider using a sickle blade type clipper, so that the hard nails could be trimmed properly and with out any hassles.

Manicure tweezers could also be used to clip the nail, in case you don't have a canine nail clipper in your tool box. Use advanced pliers to clip really strong and rigid nails. Be extremely careful and cautious while clipping dog's nails; the clipping action may accidentally injure the root of the nail or may even splinter the nails.

5. **Additional Accessories:** Apart from these usual tools and accessories, there is a need to collect many other subsidiary tools that can ensure a good round of grooming. Some of the most important additional accessories are:

- ✓ A thin leather glove protects your hands against corns and other injuries,

- ✓ Dog owners can feel very comfortable wearing a pair of rubber gloves. With rubber gloves sitting snugly on their hands, it becomes very easy to hold the instruments with a vice like grip,
- ✓ Good pair of forceps becomes handy while holding the hairs or to hold locks situated in between the toes.
- ✓ Nail files will be of immense use when one wants to sharpen the nail clipping tools,
- ✓ Eye glasses, masks and other necessary items may also prove useful when you're grooming your dog.

6. **Grooming Table:** Many professional groomers use grooming tables for grooming operations. These tables are height-adjustable, and are provided with many devices to fix the dog firmly to the table, collecting sacks for trimmed hair, stands, and shelves, and are usually embedded with convenient tool boxes.

Non-professionals may not really need such a sophisticated device. Usually, a simple table with a non-slippery surface area will take care of your immediate requirements. During grooming, you may cover the surface with a piece of a rubber mat, to avoid the table getting the surface dirty and unhygienic. Fasten this cloth to the table to prevent your dog from slipping from the table surface.

7. **Cosmetics:** Don't be surprised to read that you can even use many types of cosmetics on your lovely dog! It is possible to use a number of brands that are specially created for use on pet dogs. Apart from commercially available shampoos, conditioners and soaps, you can also buy many other cosmetics like:

- ✓ Dandruff removing shampoos,
- ✓ Hair growth formulae,
- ✓ Flea and insect control preparations added with good fragrance additives,
- ✓ Rinses, conditioners, gels and gels,
- ✓ Sprays and deodorants,
- ✓ Cologne and lotions for skin,

One word of caution: Never use these substances in a large quantity as they may damage the skin and coat beyond repair! Apart, these substances are poisonous as well!

Bathing is an Art!

Good hygiene, proper cleanliness and systematic grooming are absolutely very important and extremely sensitive in providing good health to your pet dog. However, bathing is presumed to be one of the toughest challenges one can face while grooming the dog. There may be many doubts, presumptions and questions dogging your mind, when thinking about the best bathing grooming care methods for different dog breeds and their temperament. Here are some of the time-tested guidelines and timely tips, to help you start preparing yourself for providing the best bathing care to your dog. These guidelines have been attributed to many dog grooming experts and professionals who are armed with years of practical experience.

How many times should bathe my dog every month?



The number of times you bathe your dog depends entirely on the specific breed and the mode of activities that the dog is involved in. The frequency with which you bathe your dog also depends entirely on the extent of dirt that accumulates on the dog. A dirty dog is recognized from miles away and you'll recognize when your dog is badly due for an elaborate bath.

When you bathe your dog repeatedly, its skin will be soon become lackluster and dull, and it will also lose its natural oils present on the skin. It will also result in a dry and itchy skin that can unnecessarily irritate your dog.

Tip: If you want to bathe your dog frequently, make sure that you use a good shampoo that can add a bit of moisture to the skin. Further, it also benefits your dog, when its hair and coat are provided with a good quality pet conditioner.

Where should I bathe my dog?

People tend to get confused as to whether they should bathe their dog outside their home or inside within the bathroom. Where you bathe your dog is entirely up to you, on the existing weather and the degree of convenience. Most probably, you'll check the weather before deciding on the exact place. During warm summer months you can bathe your dog outdoors in your backyard. When you bathe your dog outdoor, ascertain that you choose a place where there is no wet mud and soggy soil.

Tip: It is always advisable to use a large bath tub enough for your dog to stand inside without chances of falling. Fill the tub with water till the dog's ankles get submerged and continue with the process of bathing till you finish the job with satisfaction. However, when you run the hose of cold water it may get chill very soon and cause discomfort to the skin.

Sophisticated dog baths could also be used to bathe your dog. By using this type of tub, you will ensure that your back is spared of undue bending stress and also control the ensuing temperature of the water. These tools have a water temperature mixer valve assembly that can regulate the temperature of the water to tolerable limits.



If you decide to bathe your dog inside your home, controlling water temperature shouldn't be a big problem. However, the size of the dog plays an important role in finding a suitable place. Big dogs are difficult to bathe within the four walls of the house, while smaller breeds could even be given bath in a bathroom sink or a washtub. Bigger dogs could be given bath in large shower place.

Shower time fighting with your Dog!

Bathing your dog is one big task that is full of dog antics and bad tantrums! You may even start shouting at your dog due to frustration! If you're finding it very difficult to bathe your dog or when you feel that your dog is too pestering while bathing it, here are some of the tips that tell you how to bathe your dog without tears and frustration:

- ✓ You can solve the problem by purchasing raised dog bath platform, which is an ergonomically designed tool that elevates your dog to a height that is comfortable for both you and your dog. This platform will keep the dog securely in place and ensure you that you're not troubled by a fickle minded dog.
- ✓ You can bathe your dog with in a few minutes and stay back and keep yourself drier,
- ✓ Your dog will stay calmer and quieter during bathing, which avoids undue bathing stress on the pet,
- ✓ By using this platform, dogs will not slip and fall on the ground,

- ✓ As the bottom of these platforms are non slippery and secure, your dog will feel secure standing on the surface,
- ✓ Raised bathing platforms are very hygienic!
- ✓ It provides you better control and handling over the entire bathing process.

Cat and Mouse Game! It is bathing time!



Bathing your dog is a very important part of overall grooming process, and it is a difficult job to give a bath to your dog. Your dog seems to be clever than you at least during bathing! Just watch how it evades you when you try him to drag into the bath! He is so determined to get and run past you when you get ready to give him that elusive bath! Bathing is the only time when your dog tries to beat you and be your master! Bathing your dog is a challenging, but essential, part of dog grooming.

If you're planning to give your dog a bath and when your dog tries to be super smart than you, you may consider some brilliant ideas that can beat your dog at its game:

- ✓ When you drag your dog to a room with a door, make sure that it's closed to allow you to block the only escape route,
- ✓ A closed room is always better compared to an open space, as it prevents the dog from escaping,
- ✓ When your dog acts smart and becomes an escape artist, restrain it tightly by using a leash,
- ✓ Using restraints will avoid injuries to you as well as your dog,
- ✓ You may cajole your dog to the bathing place slowly to make him confident and bold,
- ✓ Dogs get scared and panicky when they are being given a bath. Due to bathing and its scary nature, dogs tend to slip and slide on the floor. It may fall repeatedly on the floor as a result of slipping and later injure itself in the process. Place a rubber mat on the bottom to prevent slipping and falling! Your dog feels bold and at ease when it is convinced that it will not fall down as a result of bad bottom surface.

All those necessary bathing tools!

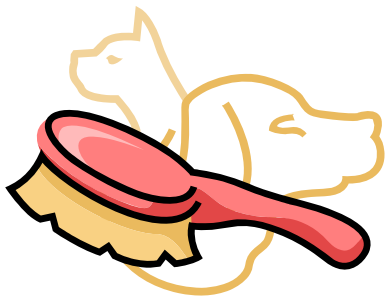
To bathe your dog successfully and to groom it properly, you will need to collect a set of all necessary tools and gadgets. Here is a small list of all the necessary tools required to bathe your dog:

- ✓ **Raised Dog Bath:** This efficient tool is an ideal tool to provide a great bathing experience to your dog. If you want to avoid bathing time hassles and head aches, rush to your nearest pet store and pick up this bath! Check out the size and measurements before buying this costly bath.
- ✓ **Convenient Pet Showers and Plastic Pitchers:** Pet Showers are commercially produced bathing utilities that give you the ultimate convenience of bathing dogs in a proper and methodic way. Large sized plastic pitchers could also be used to bathe your dog,
- ✓ **Screen for drains:** Dogs shed a lot of hairs, and loose strands of hair could clog your drain pipe and block them in the process. Use a screen to protect your drain to prevent ugly blockages,
- ✓ **Pet Shampoos and Soaps:** Dog owners can use a number of dog shampoos and soaps depending on the condition and appearance of dog coat and hair. There are several types of shampoos that can work well on various types of skin and coat. There are also different types of shampoos that specifically target certain conditions of skin like itching, inflamed skin, dry skin, pest infested skin, odorous skin and abnormally shedding skins. These shampoos can also protect the shine and luster of the coat and help induce a hint of glow onto the coat. Most of these shampoos are anti-allergic and pH conditioned to provide good health to the skin,
- ✓ **Conditioners:** Dog's coat and skin must be groomed well in order to improve the appearance and looks. Some of the notable conditioners available in a pet store are: Dry Skin conditioners, grooming sprays, mist conditioners and herbal sprays,
- ✓ **Cotton or cellulose balls:** Place them in dog's ears to prevent water going inside the ear canal,
- ✓ **Towels and Napkins:** Towels and napkins are mandatory requirements to enable quicker drying of skin. These accessories are very efficient in absorbing extra amount of water from the dog's body,

- ✓ **Eye Protection Substances:** To help prevent shampoo residues getting to the eye sockets, place a little bit of eye protection gel on to the eyes before giving your dog a bath,
- ✓ **Ear Solutions:** Some dogs do not like water getting in to their ear canals, while others may develop infection when water enters their ears. To prevent this accidental entry of water in to the ear canal, place some drops of ear protective solutions to dry the ear canal,
- ✓ **Grooming Brushes and Combs:** Brushes and combs are an absolute necessity for grooming operations, and they help you in creating a beautiful look to your dog. Combs and brushes can remove pests and help set the hair on the body,
- ✓ **Pet Hair Dryer:** These are special tools used to dry the coat with out harming or burning their skin. There are special dryers exclusively designed for dogs, and they emit less heat, but oozes out lot of air to facilitate quicker drying of coat,
- ✓ **A Collecting Bin:** Buy a water-proof bin to store all dog grooming supplies and tools,
- ✓ **A Grooming Calendar and Organizers:** Grooming is a regular exercise that is just like any other organized activities. You may preferably maintain a record of all grooming activities in an organizer or a diary.

Brushing your Dog before Bathing!

Your dog needs a thorough brushing on its coat and hair to remove all traces of dirt and entangled hair strands. By brushing your dog's coat with a good brush, you can also eradicate pests and foreign objects. To ensure perfect brushing, you need an assortment of different brushes and combs of varying sizes and shapes.



If you do not remove old hair strands and entangled debris, you will compound and inflate dog's already existing problems. In fact, the problem may even become worse! Many dog breeds are prone to developing hair locks and entanglements over a period of time. These dogs are very difficult to bathe and groom, as the shampoo that you use, will never penetrate the

deepest layers of the coat.

Tip 1: Never ever use commercial or industrial solvents on your dog's coat.

Tip 2: Most of the solvents used to remove grime and dirt from your dog are toxic and dangerous.

Tip 3: You can dissolve dirt and oily substances by using non-toxic mineral oils.

Tip 3: To remove difficult entanglements and debris, consider snipping away the affected area.

Tip 4: Intermittent brushing and flushing your bathing will easily remove tangles, mats and foreign debris, and help set and distribute natural oils on the skin.

Tip 5: Brushing actions prior to bathing will instill a feeling of confidence in your dog.

Some Additional Tips

- The most popular bathing technique is to start from dog's head, and start working towards the tail end. This technique will help you in driving away pests like ticks and lice that are lodged in the ears towards the face and body. One can also use specially made dog shampoos and pest eradicating medicines to kill these pestering parasites. When you start pouring water over the dog's head, pests and parasites residing within the dog's ears will come out and start accumulating on the face. This seems to be most simple dog bathing technique.
- Want to simplify the bathing procedure and make it a soothing experience for your dog? Make your dog get used to the sound of running water in the tub.
- Make sure that you are adding small quantities of water very gradually, to prevent your dog from getting frightened with the raising water level. A small pitcher or a bowl should be used to pour warm or cold water in to the tub.
- If you're using a spray nozzle, ensure that the water jet is regulated and calibrated to make your dog feel at ease.
- Direct spraying of water at dog's eyes and genitals must be avoided at all cost.

- While applying a pet shampoo on the dog's coat ensure that you are cleaning every part of the pet, like the rectum, toes, and under chin areas.
- Beware of applying dog shampoo in your dog's eyes.
- Be cautious while applying shampoo over the dog's tail! Dogs can get really nervous and panicky when you handle them by their tail.
- Excess shampoo, if any, must be washed off thoroughly as its residues may cause severe skin irritation.
- Before you take the dog out of the bath, clean and wipe the excess water from the body with a clean towel.
- Some dog breeds have very fragile hair strands and they should never be wiped roughly with towel. Rather, start patting them dry with a soft towel.
- Dogs are very affectionate pets and they remain so till they die on your lap. Be good to your dog and look after him in a humane and compassionate way,
- Grooming is a good lesson for you as well; more often, it is a lifetime experience and a natural duty.

Daily Grooming and Examination

Every dog needs daily checks and regular grooming sessions for improving and revitalizing their overall health. When you groom your dog on a consistent basis, you'll ensure the following:

- It helps you to monitor the general health and wellbeing of the dog,
- You'll know the exact nature of the problem and every possible solutions to counter potentially disastrous situations,
- Badly groomed dogs will shed a lot of hair strands throughout the home, including the carpet and furniture. With regular grooming, you can avoid irregular and abnormal shedding in your pet,

A well kept dog is also a joy and a source of inspiration to you and your family members, as dogs are known to form very close bonding with us. Preferably, you may wish to start grooming your dog right from their puppy stage. When you keep your pets free from pests and dirt, you're also assuring your dog a good life of more than 10 years.

Here are some common tips and suggestions to help you create a healthy trend of creating a daily grooming and examination schedule:

- First of all, maintain a clean and hygienic surrounding around your house and backyard,
- Exterior kennels and dog houses must be kept clean and tidy,
- Dog bedding must be changed regularly and washed properly with disinfectants and antiseptic solutions,
- Parasitic control in dog is probably the biggest challenges and you may wish to learn something about dog pests and their control. Internal and external parasites abound your dog and learning the biology and habits of these parasites will enable you take better control measures,
- Keep a close contact with your pet doctor because you can learn a lot of practical skills and techniques from them,

- Proper nutrition and dietary habits play an important role in dog grooming. An excess or deficiency of essential nutrients is always quite dangerous and problematic for the health of the dog.
- Learn the ways and methods of grooming by reading books, guides and articles,
- Bathe your dog only when it is really necessary and only when you want to keep them clean and free from irritating pests. Some dogs have very fragile coats and they tend to lose their shine and life after repeated bathing,
- Brushing is an important grooming exercise, and you are required to learn methods and techniques of better grooming,
- Daily grooming also involves minute examination of dog's coat, hairs, ears and eyes.
- Daily grooming also requires you to notice any perceptible changes in dog's normal behavior and mannerism,
- Get ready with an excellent set of grooming tools and facilities. A separate room is preferable while grooming your dog because it is easy to collect loose hair and dirt from the floor,
- Get acquainted with your dog breed and its breed characters before trying grooming,
- If you wish to groom and trim your pet yourself, instead of hiring a professional groomer, some important "do's" and "don'ts" will invariably follow you,
- The first basic principle of grooming is to make your dog accept grooming and basic care,
- There is a maximum limit to what you can do to your dog. In case of emergencies, never attempt to do everything by yourself. In such cases, contact your vet immediately,
- Patience is a good trait and don't lose your composure while grooming your dog. Dogs could be very tricky and cunning even with their masters,
- If you find that the grooming operation is becoming very strenuous, you can stop it for sometime and try again after a while.

Managing Shedding in your Dog

Shedding in your dog could be the single biggest problem, and managing shedding in your pet dog is perhaps the diciest challenge. It is also very frustrating on a dog owner's part to groom the coat. Numerous surveys indicate that pet hair is a big problem in their homes and surrounding. Every dog in this world does shed and even those breeds which are presumed not to shed will shed sometimes in their lifetime.



Shedding is a god given gift to a dog, and it is also a natural process. It is a sign of good health as well. What is good for the health of the dog could be a sign of pain for you! Dog shedding results in loose hair strands scattered in every corner of your home. It could be very messy too! If this is the extent of problem, what exactly can you do to control the situation? Or even reduce it?

Dog Shedding is a natural act!

Shedding is a natural process whose rate depends directly on the overall growth of hair, genetics, nutrition and the ambience in which the dog is growing. Dog shedding is a direct result of old hair being replaced by new and young hair. Most of the dogs do shed their hair regularly, while some breeds shed very slowly, whose process is not as conspicuous as in the case of other dogs. Shedding is a mandatory process that is also influenced by any other factors like nutritious food and drugs.

Factors that affect shedding in dogs are:

- Temperature changes: Too hot temperature results in slightly higher shedding compared lower atmospheric temperature,
- Duration of time that is spent under the sun: Dogs that reside in tropical and hot areas tend to shed more and with an increased frequency,
- Area where the dog is raised: Dogs that stays indoors most of time, shed slowly and less frequently, compared to dogs that spends most of their time outdoors,

- Old age and terminally ill dogs: These dogs shed hair at an alarming rate and it may be very difficult to control shedding among these dogs,
- Dietary Quality: Nutritious foods reduce the amount of hair that is shed and it also brings down the frequency of shedding,
- Allergic and Chemical Substances: Several synthetic products and cosmetics may cause severe skin allergy in the coat, which is usually followed by uncontrolled and abnormal shedding. Rollers, carpet cleaners and vacuum cleaners also cause allergy in dogs,

Preventing Shedding in Dogs

One of the sensible things that you can do to control shedding in dogs is to take care of the hair itself, by brushing it regularly with good tools and skincare items. Just remember that these dogs used to brush their hair in the naturally occurring conditions almost hundred thousands of years ago! Brushing often mimics the naturally existing conditions of yesteryears, when the swaying tree and shrubs caught loose hair and removed it from the body.

There are several advantages of brushing the coat of your dog like:

- Brushing brings you and dog close together both emotionally and socially. This often results in a permanent bond that could last for many years,
- Brushing action of the skin and coat increases and stimulates blood circulation on the surface skin layers,
- Regular brushing helps you to detect all skin wounds and infections well in advance, so that necessary medicines and drugs could be applied to prevent potentially dangerous situations,
- When you brush your dog's hair every now and then, it is easy to prevent mats and knots forming on the coat,
- Regular brushing will also prevent loose strands of hair littering the nook and corners of your home,
- Regular grooming and brushing will allow you to establish a clean and hygienic atmosphere in your home.

Tip: Before grooming make sure that you spend some extra time with your dog

Useful Dog Shedding Products

You will need to collect an assortment of shedding tools to carry out the grooming work. The nature and type of tools varies according to the type and breed of dog owned; short coated dogs need a different set of tools, while dogs with long hair and tough coat, need separate variety of tools.

Techniques and methods used for brushing and grooming your dogs also vary according to the nature of the coat and hair. Here are the methods and tools that are used to brush and groom your dog based on the type and nature of coat:

Short Coated Dogs:

Tip: Brush short coated dogs two or three times every week!

Basic Technique:

- Use brush with medium soft bristles,
- Brush in easy strokes in the direction of the hair growth.

Medium Coated Dogs:

Tip: Brush medium coated dogs four times every week!

Basic Technique:

- Use a firmer bristle brush with a good handle,
- Make sure that you brush the hairs on the leg and chest,
- Check for hair matting and locks and remove all dead strands of hair,
- Clip all those unwanted strands of hair to make the coat look even from all sides,

Long Coated Dogs:

Tip: Brush long coated dogs almost on a daily basis!

- Use a soft bristle brush and a wide-toothed comb,
- Divide the coat into many sectors and tackle them one at a time,
- Comb the hair neatly once the grooming is finished.
- If there is an instance of severe matting and entanglements, seek your Vet's assistance.

Double Coated Dogs:

Tip: Brush double coated dogs almost on a daily basis! Seek groomer's help!

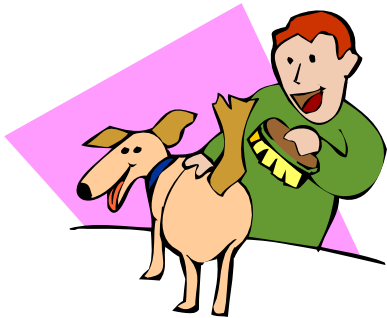
- Use a stiff, long bristle brush to reach the thick undercoat,
- Brush on a daily basis and carry out a detailed grooming every week,
- Take care to clean the inner most layers of the coat.

General Tips:

1. Dedicate your free time for a thorough round of grooming,
2. Like what you do and enjoy each minute of it,
3. Never hurt or injure your dog,
4. Fix and treat all skin infections and lesions immediately,
5. Never rush on your job and take your own time to groom your dog,
6. Preferably wear a pair of gloves and a face mask to avoid animal induced allergies.

Skin Care and Management

A dog is noted for its discipline and the quality of coat it wears; however, the quality of coat depends on the extent and degree of grooming the dog gets from its owner. Dogs are exposed to many genetic and environmental catalysts that can cause severe skin allergies. These catalysts may include pollutants, allergens, parasites, pest, insects, and even the food ingredients they eat.



Skin care and management is probably the most critical factor that determines the appearance and health of the dog. Getting to know how to manage your dog's skin and surface coat is the ultimate secret, and this invaluable knowledge could easily prevent many potentially dangerous problems in the future.

The factors that affect the health of the skin and coat can be broadly classified into three main categories, and you may need to understand these factors before you start grooming and caring for your dog's skin.

These categories are as follows:

Food and Nutrition

Good skin and better coat is a direct result of proper nutrition containing all the required feed additives and nutrients. When your dog is fed a good food containing all essential ingredients, you can expect your dog to possess an excellent skin health and a high quality coat.

Tip: Your dog's food must contain good quality protein, sufficient amounts of carbohydrate, excellent grade fat and required quantities of minerals and vitamins.

However, feeding the correct food starts with the inclusion of right amount of highly critical mineral sources like calcium and zinc. Calcium is an essential mineral for a dog and the toughness of bones is directly proportional to the quantity and quality of minerals like calcium, magnesium, zinc and iron.

Most of the home-made food you feed your dog is acutely short of all the above nutritional factors, and this is possibly the reason why so many dogs sport a dull

and lackluster skin and coat. To maintain the health and look of the skin, you may need to provide additional oral supplements and treats that help the dog to overcome many negative factors and still possess a healthy looking skin. Oral supplements are helpful in building a strong body structure and tough mindset that are so much required by your dog!

Oral supplements come in many forms and formulations like:

- Liquids,
- Capsules,
- Treats and
- Granules.

Before choosing oral supplements, you'll also need to consider several important factors like:

- The quality of dietary protein: A good dietary protein is that component that is easily digestible and absorbable. Protein of animal origin is preferable over plant proteins.
- Fatty acids: Balanced fatty acid supplements containing a liberal amount of marine lipids are presumed to be the best for an optimal health. There are a number of varieties of fatty acid supplements containing marine fats, and by using these items you can ensure shining coat and a profuse hair growth.
- Vitamins and other minerals: To ensure good health and longevity of the dog, you must feed required quantities of Vitamins like A, B, C, E and trace minerals like calcium, zinc, magnesium and iron. Vitamins reduce damaging free radicals, while minerals promote general body metabolism.
- An extra ounce of Calcium: Calcium in the feed is a good sign and dogs need plenty of it to make their bones become strong and tough. You can include calcium supplements in the feed and preferably choose animal calcium sources like bones and lime.
- Dogs just love treats and dog owners use them out of sheer affection for their dog. The two of the most important uses of these treats are their unique nature and an excellent nutritional standard. You can combine your love and affection of treating with good feed supplements. Most of the treats sold in the market are excellent sources of calcium and other vital feed ingredients, and they can help your dog to become strong and agile!

Treating Allergies

Like humans, even dogs contract serious skin allergies and infections. An allergy is dog's reaction to an allergen that is capable of causing a severely sensitive

reaction in its body. An allergen could be anything in nature, manmade or natural, and they usually cause severe reactions within the dog's body. Allergens can also enter dog's body by the way of grass, pollen, dust, fleas, mites, bugs, upholstery fabric and even foods. They can also enter dog's body by inhalation, ingestion, injection and medicines. When your dogs get allergic, the first notable sign is their strange behavior and a tendency to scratch and lick their body and tail.

In many cases, serious skin allergies could cause havoc on the dog's skin, and minimizing these bad effects seems to be a big challenge for a dog owner. Eradicating these allergens usually starts with feeding a good food and providing a clean living environment. However, you can also use topical drugs and medicines to keep away all potentially dangerous allergens and allergy causing agents.

Most of the topical solutions and ointments contain compounds like hydrocortisone and lidocaine and these can also be in the form of sprays, salve, shampoos and pads. When allergens start affecting the body, secondary infections caused by fungus and bacteria assume dangerous proportions. Skin lesions and wounds can lead to a serious health situation, as dogs are very much prone to skin diseases.

Skin Cleaning Agents

One of the most valuable tools to manage your dog's skin is a set of pet shampoo bottles and cleaning agents. Regular application of shampoos on the dog's coat will lend a positive effect on your dog's skin and coat health. Clean skin will ward-off potentially dangerous skin infections and lesions, while the recuperative properties of shampoos will provide a good looking skin devoid any abnormalities and aberrations.

There are a large number of shampoos available in the market and you can choose one that best fits your overall purpose. Some of them effectively manage the ill effects of allergies, while others are capable of fighting infections with a sense of utter conviction. Never use those shampoos which are designed for human use because the harsh ingredients of these shampoos could severely damage the coat and hair. There are herbal shampoos that are not dangerous to the coat, while sophisticated shampoos are prepared for application on a specific dog. Medicated shampoos contain ingredients like coal tar and salicylic acid. These shampoos have the ability to remove scales and mats. You can even use non-allergic shampoos which do not cause any allergy in your dog.

Tip: You are the real master for your dog and you'll know your dog better than anyone else!

Caring for Ears

A dog is well appreciated for its acute sense of smelling and hearing, apart from its faithfulness and fidelity. Under usual circumstances, dog's ears do not pose any problems, as long as they are kept clean and hygienic. However, dog may develop severe problems in their ears due to many other conditions that are mainly environmental or artificial in nature. To ensure healthy set of ears, you may like to establish a strict routine that establishes regular check-up routine for detecting any abnormalities and problems in the ears. Dog's ears could develop problems like:

- Wax build-up and subsequent wounds and infections,
- Excessive matting of hair covering inside the ear canal,
- Redness and inflammation in the ear canal,
- Foreign debris and dirt,
- Damage to the ear canal and drum

Tip: Though it seems a bit offensive, it is better to smell your dog's ears to detect bad odors

Ears that have developed infections will ooze a darkish or grayish liquid at regular intervals. Mites, insects and pests love to hide in the ear canals as this area is very safe and moist. Some of the bigger pests and insects can even go near the ear drums and cause irreparable damage leading to partial or full deafness.

Caution: If you feel that there is a serious ear problem that can't be cured by you, then you may consider contacting your dog health professional for advanced treatment. Never neglect an ear problem!

Here are some of the most common suggestions and tips that can be used for managing ears:

- ✓ If there are no visible problems in the ears, do not meddle with them,
- ✓ Dog ears must be treated cautiously and please be very gentle while cleaning the ears,
- ✓ Never, ever use soap or detergent to clean the ears!
- ✓ Do not poke long sticks, swabs or buds deep inside the canal as they may damage the ear drums completely,
- ✓ If you detect any foreign bodies inside the canal, call your Vet immediately,
- ✓ If you see big insects and pests, try taking it out by using a recommended oil,

- ✓ Ears are some of the most used organs in a dog's body, and you will treat them as you would treat your own ears,

Dogs display unusual signs and symptoms, if they have acute problems in their ears. Some of these symptoms are:

- ✓ Frequent shaking of head, which seems to be very unusual,
- ✓ Consistent pawing and ear scratching of ears,
- ✓ Strange behavior with their head movements,
- ✓ Pronounced smell and bad odor from the ears,
- ✓ Oozing liquid and wax from the ears,
- ✓ Matted and locked hair formation inside the ears,
- ✓ Excessive colonies of pests and insects inside the ear canals,
- ✓ Canal wall inflamed and reddish,
- ✓ Moistness that doesn't dry up,
- ✓ Reduced reflexes while hearing sound,
- ✓ Occasional fever and tiredness,
- ✓ Unruly behavior and abnormal sleeping behavior,
- ✓ Blood stains and clotting inside the ear canals

Note: Some of the dig breeds like Spaniels, Pom and Blood hounds are very prone to ear infections, and hence need constant ear grooming sessions. These dogs are known to accumulate dirt and wax inside their ears due to a great amount of hair strands inside the ear.

Tip: As dog owners have different types of breeds, the general care regimen varies considerably. Owners are advised to visit their Vets for occasional ear examination.

Healthy dogs have a set of ears that are alert, agile, pale pink and devoid of any odor. Small amount of dirt is perfectly normal and this can be removed carefully by a piece of cotton gauze. Clean whatever is necessary and never poke the gauze deep inside the ear canal. Consult your Vet professional to learn methods and ways by which you can groom your dog's ears.

Medications

Pet stores sell a wide variety of ear medications and each of them is designed to treat and cure a particular problem. Before you buy any of these medications, guarantee that you study the actual problem and possible solutions to counter it. For routine cleaning purposes, you can use a good mineral oil applied on a cotton cloth. Remember that there are some ear problems which can't be handled by you alone and under such a scenario, contact your Vet doctor for advanced treatment.

Keeping a Clean Foot

Did you ever know that a pet dog is a wonderful animal that stands upright on its quadruped, firmly standing, four-footed structure? Your dog owns a set of special paws that can help him to sprint across the field with a hint of lightening agility and swiftness! These paws are highly specialized structures that are reserved only for some animals.



Paws in dogs are built more like that of a horse and these paws are designed for fast movements across the field. The dog's paws are very strong and wily, with a facility for absorbing shock and jerks. Paws are also designed for extreme for traction and increased endurance. Its rough edged pads on the underside allow the dog for quick turns and quick sprints.

Some Claw facts

Each foot of dog has its own pad that touches the ground, while it also possesses a set of toe nails. Some of the breeds have a claw called dew claws, which are actually the fifth toe that does not touch the ground. Dew claws are usually removed when

the pup is a few weeks old, before the nerves in the claw gets active and start exerting pain.

The basic design of paws in all dogs is almost similar though they may differ very slightly from breed to breed. Here are some of the types of paws in different breeds of dogs:

- Cat feet type of claws: Short third row bones are the direct result of a kind of paw called "Cat feet". These paws are very light weight, need less energy to lift the foot, allow the dogs to conserve their energy and also assist them in running very quickly. Examples of cat feet dogs are: Akita, Doberman, Terriers, Schnauzers and Sheep dogs.
- Hare feet type of claws: Dogs with hare feet have two centrally positioned toes that are longer than the side positioned toes. Some of the examples are: Toy dogs, Borzoi and Greyhound.

- Web feet type of claws: Some of the breeds like Newfoundland, Bay Retrievers and Pointers have wide claws that allow them to swim quickly in the water.

Toenails

Dog toenails are similar to human toenails and they grow quite fast too! The toenails must be cared for regularly to prevent dogs from scratching human legs and to make them look clean and tidy. Uncontrolled toenails could even hurt dogs when they start rocking back on its paws. These movements often exert tremendous strain on the leg itself and also on the fore and hind quarters.

Dogs have the curious habit of digging down the on the ground and long toenails will help them to dig on concrete and soil. As a result, you are forced to clip their toenails to prevent these unpleasant acts.

Toenails Clipping Tips

Dog toenails are longish with a hint of pronounced curvature. Dog toenails are enriched with blood at the base of the nail, but the end is a dead tissue just like human nails. These parts of the toenails could be clipped without any problems.

Tip: Clip the end of the toenails as close as possible to the base without causing pain or wounds. Start by clipping the curved part of the toenails and later work back towards the base or paw. Clip one bit at a time so that the possibility of wounds or bleeding is minimized

Handling a puppy is actually very difficult as there are chances of you injuring the paw and the nail base. However, toenail clipping is an essential part of grooming and maintenance. Adult dogs are still more difficult to manage as they do not like their feet handled by their masters. Owners who like to learn clipping toenails may get their training through their breeders or a qualified Vet doctor.

Toenails are very important to a dog because the overall movement of a dog is dependent on the length of the toenails. Longer toenails mean reduced mobility and decreased speed while running. To clip the toenails, the first basic requirement is to teach the dog obey your commands and follow the oral orders.

Treating Wounds and Cuts

Dogs are more prone to injuries and many times, you'll find them cutting their toenails and paws. Caring for wounds, cuts, scratches and bruises is the most challenging task in dog grooming. While caring for dog wounds, you have to consider two most important aspects like:

- Stopping existing bleeding and,
- To treat the wound to prevent infection

Caution: Dog suffering from wounds tends to be very impatient and restless. Be prepared to restrain your dog before treating the wound.

Controlling Bleeding

Like in humans, dogs do bleed from their wounds and it could be due to many reasons and factors. Bleeding is either arterial (spurting of fresh and pure blood from the arteries) or venous (oozing of dark and impure blood). The amount of blood that oozes depends on the extent of wound and depth of the wound site. Usually, dogs do possess a fair degree of blood clotting, but never wipe the wound that has stopped bleeding. Fresh wounds should not be treated with solutions like hydrogen peroxide and iodine solution.

In practice there are two methods used to control bleeding in dogs:

- ✓ Pressure dressing method: Bleeding from the wounds could be stopped by placing several pieces of sterile gauze clothing, and packing the wound very tightly. If you see any abnormal swelling of the limb below the pressure pack, it indicates impaired or blocked circulation. It also tells you that you should loosen the bandage to allow proper circulation,
- ✓ The Tourniquet method: When there is an injury to the artery, you may need to use this method to stop severe bleeding. Under normal circumstances, this can be applied between the wound and the heart. Take a piece of gauze cloth or sterile bandage cloth and make a loop around the affected area. Tighten the loop with your hand snugly, and if there is a need you can also insert a stick beneath the loop and twist it around tightly until the bleeding has completely stopped. Qualified professionals can tie the loose end of arteries with a piece of surgical thread to stop continuous

bleeding. Tourniquet must be loosened every three or four minutes, so that circulation is allowed to continue beyond the wound area to the paws.

How to Treat Wounds?

Wounds can get infected with an overload of bacteria and other disease causing germs, if not treated properly quickly. All wounds are usually contaminated with dirt and soil and these may act as a catalyst to quicken the onset of disease in dogs. Here are some tips that explain how you can handle dog wounds and apply suitable medicines and drugs:

- All wounds and cuts must be treated under highly aseptic and hygienic conditions,
- Make sure that your hands and the tools that are used for cleaning the wounds are very clean,
- Tackle the wound at its edge taking care not to disturb the wound unnecessarily,
- Start at the perimeter of the wound and slowly clip the hair strand around the wound to open up the site,
- Clean the edges of the wound site with a clean and wet cotton gauze,
- Soak the area with a mild antiseptic solution to remove dirt,
- Apply a topical antibiotic cream or lotion and soak the area completely,
- Dress the wound with sterile cotton bandage cloth,
- Infected wounds could be washed with a mild hydrogen peroxide solution to remove pus and residues. Dry up the wound and apply bandage.

Additional Tips

- The basic wound management procedure involves cleaning the wound periodically and dressing with fresh bandage cloth,
- If pus forms on the site, take care to drain it completely and later cover it up with a good antibiotic ointment,
- Sometimes, the wound could be deep and wide enough to demand closing by suturing; timely suturing will help your dog to recover quickly and get rid of infection and scarring,
- When the wounds are already infected with pus, suturing is not possible,
- When your dog is bitten by another dog, the wound will be in a puncture form. Treat this type of wound with the help of your Vet and if possible give an anti-rabies shot to prevent rabies,
- Avoid your dog playing in the loose soil and dirty surfaces to prevent further damage to the wounded area,
- Wound management in dogs involves close monitoring and inspection.

How to Bandage Dog Wounds?

Note: Collect necessary set of tools, equipments and drugs for treating dog wounds

Applying bandage to dog wounds and cuts is a thing of art, which needs skills and practice from the owner. You'll need to learn how a wound could be cleaned and bandaged to prevent future infection. Please refer to the following guidelines to know how dog wounds could be bandaged properly to provide protection from infection and inflammation:

1. **Foot Bandages:** Place several layers of sterile bandage gauze over the foot wound. Insert sterile cotton balls in between the toes and secure them with a piece of adhesive tape. Foot wounds are difficult to manage as dogs tend to roam around a lot and get themselves dirty and unhygienic.
2. **Leg Bandages:** Follow the same steps as in the case of foot bandages. Make sure that you wrap the tape securely around the leg, but check to see that you're not overlapping the bandage, because it may cause sticking of tape with the hair. By doing this you can prevent dressing from slipping up and down. Ensure that the circulation is in order by flexing the knee and foot many times.

Caution: When you leave the dressing in place for more than 60 minutes, check on it every two hours to be sure that there is no swelling on the foot. If there is any swelling, loosen the dressing a bit to allow blood circulation to the affected parts and beyond.

3. **Eye Bandage:** Dogs can injure their eyes due to accidents and you may need to know how to bandage wounded eyes. To bandage the injured eyes, place a piece of sterile gauze cloth over the eyes and make it stay in its place by using a sterile tape around the head. Take care to see that the bandage is not too tight and also ensure that ears are free. Apply an effective ointment to prevent infection. You may also be required to change the dressing from time to time to apply fresh medication.

Tips: If you perceive that you're inexperienced to apply bandages to wounds, or if you detect that the wounds are quite deep and wide, then you may seek the professional medical help as soon as possible.

Dental Care in Dogs

How does your dog smell when it breathes in your face? Does it feel awful and repulsive? Do you feel turning your face away when your dog start licking your cheeks? Hold on! There is a definite clue that there is something terribly wrong with your dog's mouth! What is it? Is it that bad smelling tooth? Or, is it something else? You may need to check out what exactly is happening in your dog's mouth!

Note: A healthy mouth always feels better and smells nice! Pets with clean mouths live longer as well!



Dog owners may never notice dog's persisting tooth ache, unless the starts chewing only on one side! Like in humans, dental problems like decay and cavities in dogs develop gradually over a certain period of time and unfortunately, we miss the initial symptoms and signs altogether. Most of the dogs that are in their early stages of tooth ache do exhibit some symptoms like reluctance to eat food, lack of activity and general lethargy.

Pet dogs with healthy dental structure and clean mouth will be very energetic and healthy, compared to dogs with tooth decay and other related problems.

Dental Diseases in Dogs

Dogs could develop various types of dental diseases at least once in their lifetime. However, as the dog advances in its age, tooth decay becomes more pronounced when it loses its capacity to chew and bite, as a result of some sort of dental diseases. Apart from serious dental problems, dogs may also develop symptoms of minor nature.

Here are some of the most common dental diseases in dogs:

1. **Plaque:** Though dogs rarely develop cavities, it can get gum diseases and tartar development on its teeth. Food debris and bacteria develop over the tooth and gum and result in the formation of plaque. Regular grooming will remove this plaque.

2. Tartar: When you don't remove plaque, minerals in the saliva combine with plaque and result in ugly tartar, which binds itself to the teeth very strongly and will become a big nuisance after some time. The tartar can be very annoying and could form inflammation and gingivitis. Tartar will also cause bad breath in dogs. If the tartar buildup is too much you may need to use scalers to remove them and later polish the teeth with polishing tools.
3. Periodontal Diseases: If the tartars are not removed, they start accumulating under the gum. In the course of the time, it separates the gum from the teeth to form visible pockets which eventually promote an uncontrolled growth of bacteria in the gum line. At this juncture, the damage caused can't be reverted back and could become very painful and torturous. As bacterial growth spreads in the mouth, it can spread into the blood stream and cause damage to heart, blood vessels and kidneys. Under special care, this deadly disease could be controlled to a certain extent.

As a dog owner you may need to consider a strict dental care regimen that includes:

- ✓ Regular visits to a good veterinarian, for a detailed dental examination,
- ✓ Frequent dental cleaning programs,
- ✓ Daily home dental care to maintain the dental health.

How to conduct an oral examination?

A systematic dental exam could reveal existing problems and potential health hazards. It will detect common dental problems like plaque and tartar build-up, gingivitis, periodontal diseases and dental fractures.

Your Vet will be able to:

- ✓ Examine the oral cavity, mucosal liners, and surface of teeth and gums,
- ✓ Force open the mouth to check inner most mucosal layers, jaws, palates, tonsils and deeper tongue areas,
- ✓ Assess the overall condition of the mouth and dental system,
- ✓ Check the dental line for any infection and pus formation,

Dental Cleaning Procedure

To prevent all dental related diseases, your dog needs regular dental care either at home or at a veterinary hospital. Good teeth essentially mean clean set of teeth; you'll need to ensure that you take care of your dog's dental concerns very seriously. Though brushing your dog's teeth is a good idea to remove visible plaques, you simply can't remove tartar on the dog's teeth. To remove tartar you may need to visit your Vet and get the tartar removed by specialized instruments. Your veterinarian is your dog's life line and apart from being qualified, a Vet will also help you in regular grooming and hygiene management.

Usually, a routine dental cleaning session consists of:

- ✓ Putting your dog to sleep by anesthetizing it with suitable agents,
- ✓ Taking X-Ray images to make an assessment of the health of all teeth and bones within the mouth cavity,
- ✓ Kill all bacteria within the mouth by using a convenient anti-bacterial solution,
- ✓ Using scalers and cleaners to remove all calculus matter from above and below the gum line,
- ✓ Check out for traces of calculus and then removing them by using scalers,
- ✓ Polishing the teeth to remove all debris and microscopic scratches,
- ✓ Inspecting teeth and gum for periodontal diseases and symptoms,
- ✓ Cleaning the mouth with an antiseptic solution,
- ✓ Applying dental plaque retarding substances and agents,
- ✓ Suggesting ways to improve dental health and recording all events,
- ✓ Teaching techniques and methods, and briefing you how you can groom your dog at your home,
- ✓ Follow-up date and fixing next appointment date,
- ✓ Purchasing drugs, creams and other medicines to treat the dental disease, if any.

Home Dental Care

Home oral care includes routine examinations of your dog's mouth and other essential routines like:

1. Looking closely for all warning signs that suggest occurrence of gum diseases like peritonitis, halitosis, red and swollen gums, excessive tartar formation and uncontrolled bleeding.
2. Checking for fractured, discolored and missing teeth and,
3. Examining for lesions, wounds, infections and sore gums.

Daily Brushing: Regular brushing of your dog's teeth is an important aspect of dental grooming. There are many pet types of toothpaste on the market today. Make sure you use only pet toothpaste. Toothpastes designed for people can upset your dog's stomach. Pet toothpastes may contain several different active ingredients. Various veterinary dentists have recommended those toothpastes that contain chlorhexidine or hexametaphosphate.

Tooth brushes designed for dogs are again entirely different from those designed for people. These brushes are usually smaller, softer and completely different in shape. The choice of tooth brush depends on many factors like dog's overall dental health, size of mouth cavity and owner's ability to clean the teeth. If you feel that tooth brush that you use is still bigger, then dental sponges are highly recommended for the brushing job. Dental sponge is a tool containing a piece of sponge at the end of a handle. Dental sponges are disposable and softer than tooth brushes.

Duration of Brushing:

How long would your dog go without brushing its teeth?

Frankly speaking, the more often you brush your dog's teeth the better it will be for its health. Preferably you can go for daily brushing if your time permits you. Otherwise, brushing every alternate day is fair enough to ensure good dental health. However, it may be very difficult to initiate brushing schedule on dogs, as they can be very reluctant to open their mouth for brushing. Thus, you may need to be patient enough to make brushing a daily routine for your dog. To lend a sweet fragrance from the mouth, you can also introduce mouth cleaning liquids while brushing the dog's teeth.

Some Curious Dental Facts

Everything you wanted to know about dog dental facts, but were very reluctant to ask! Here are some of the amazing facts about your dog's dental structure and makeup:

- Puppies have 28 temporary teeth, 14 in the upper jaw and 14 in the lower jaw. These deciduous teeth erupt at about three to four weeks of age.
- Dogs have 42 permanent teeth, 20 on the top side, and 22 on the bottom. These teeth begin to emerge at about four months of puppy age.
- Dogs also have six permanent teeth, with three roots each, and fourteen teeth that each has two distinctive roots.
- Puppies must lose a puppy tooth before the corresponding adult tooth takes its birth. When a puppy tooth is still in the gum, and if an adult tooth begins to show up, it is called a *retained deciduous tooth*. If this happens, see your Vet doctor, so the dog's occlusion structure is not affected.
- Studies reveal that by age three, 90 percent of dogs show signs of gum disease.
- Sneezing and excessive nasal discharge may be due to an infection of the upper canine tooth or gum.
- Small dog breeds are more likely to develop periodontal disease than large dogs, because the teeth of small dogs are too large for their small mouths
- A broken tooth is a commonly occurring problem, especially among outdoor dogs.

Removing Plaques by Mechanical Tools

Mechanical removal of plaque can be accomplished by using toys such as Plaque Attacker dental toys, rope toys, or rawhide chips. Mechanical removal can also be achieved by using toys that are specially created for the purpose. Do not use rough toys that are abrasive in nature. The toys you provide should not be so small that he gets lodged inside the wind pipe. Rawhide toys and dog chews are other viable options. There are many food scraps and table sweets that can be used as mechanical toys for dogs.

Eye Care in Dogs

Dogs are also well-known for their exceptionally good eye sight that can spot any distant subject in a jiffy! Dog's eyes are almost like any other animals excepting that the nervous system is well developed with a strong muscle structure. Dog grooming will also include looking after eyes and grooming them for general health and a good eye sight.

Note: Eyes are very important for a dog to survive, because eyes are the most important organs in a dog's body apart from legs and muzzle.

Grooming for your pet dog's eyes is a complicated task and tough challenge, as even a small wound or a scratch could prove detrimental to the eyes. Normal dogs have a fine pair of eyes that shine like diamonds in the dark!

However, there are instances when your dog may accidentally hurt itself in its eyes. To treat eye injuries, it is a very difficult task, as eyes are very complicated organs in the dog's body. But, general eye grooming may consist of the following aspects:

- ✓ Checking the eyes for dirt and dust; when pieces of dust get in to a dog's eyes, it will scratch its paws on the eyes to remove the dust particles. There may be occasional spurt of tears to remove the intruding dust particles.
- ✓ If you feel that there is a foreign body in your dog's eyes, the first basic thing that you would do is to apply some eye drops. Eye drops can create excess moisture in the eyes and make the dust particles to flow out along with the eye drops,
- ✓ These drops are usually mild antibiotic solutions, which also provide antiseptic action in prohibiting the entry of germs,
- ✓ Regular grooming of eyes also involve wiping the eyes clean with a wet and moist cloth dipped in some eye drops,
- ✓ If there is a wide scratch or if you feel that the injury to the eyes is very big and bleeding profusely, you may be forced to carry the dog to a seasoned Veterinarian for advanced treatment,
- ✓ Old dogs develop uncontrolled cataract in the eyes. Many a time, it is very difficult to cure eye problems in dogs as the process is irreversible.

Flea and Tick Control

Flea and tick control is probably the most important aspect of dog grooming and you will need to know and understand the ways by which you can eradicate clumsy looking and debilitating fleas and ticks residing on the dog's body. As a dedicated groomer you'll provide necessary treatment and drugs for controlling fleas and ticks. Periodical eradication of these pests will ensure health of the pet and a happy frame of mind.

Fleas and ticks are basically very small parasites that suck the blood and live on the surface skin for ever. Don't get surprised to know that they can even breed on the skin and create colonies of small fleas and ticks. They spend about 30 minutes on the body surface and later hop on to nooks and corners available on the settee, table and carpet.

Note: Dogs and cats pickup fleas from other flea-infested animals or environments.

Detecting the presence of fleas and ticks is rather very easy and you can use the following method to detect them:

Using a flea comb, neatly comb the dog coat over a bright, white clean surface. Observe for tiny black spots on the surface and in the comb; these may be flea feces. When you pour some drops of water over these specks the water may turn brownish or reddish as a result of the blood part of the feces. Dogs that are heavily infested by fleas and ticks usually tend to scratch continuously due to uncontrolled irritation and itching.

Common problems those are associated with fleas and ticks:

- ✓ Allergies,
- ✓ Infections and
- ✓ Anemia

Flea bites can be very irritating and itching for dogs! Some of the dog breeds may develop severe allergies as a result of consistent flea biting and fecal matter ejection. The most common symptoms are uncontrolled scratching around the groin, tail and back, along with tiny specks on the neck and backside. It is also accompanied by reddish swelling and spots on the area where the fleas are residing. Some of the fleas and ticks can introduce tapeworm larvae into the blood during blood sucking.

Removing Fleas and Ticks

Dog care experts and Veterinarians will have enough information and details that will tell you how you can remove fleas and ticks successfully. Once fleas and ticks take over the body of your pet dog, it is often very cumbersome and strenuous to eradicate them, as these tiny organisms usually live in those areas which are inaccessible even to insecticide treatment.

Flea and tick management involves two fold preventive measures like:

- Application of some sort of chemicals to remove fleas and ticks from the body and
- Eradicating fleas, ticks and other tiny parasites from your home and yard. Usually, these tiny organisms live in the tiny cracks and corners of your home and surroundings.

Basic pest removal program consists of using some chemicals and insecticides over the body of the dog itself and later on the surrounding surface. Ask your dog groomer about flea and tick products you can use to remove parasites. There are several over-the-counter products available in pet shops specially designed for flea and tick control, and you can choose the one that best fits your home and the pet.

Advanced treatment options also include oral pills that are ingested by the dog to release residues that can control the fleas and ticks. However, many of the pet groomers use safe insecticides to remove pests from the dog's body. A "flea dip" is a convenient idea that can be used while you bathe your dog. There are several ointments and creams available today that can be applied directly on the dog's body.

But, you'll need to be very careful while applying these creams and lotions as they could be detrimental to the health of dogs and children in the home. Though the toxic parts of these drugs are very minimal, you just can't take risks with them.

Caution: Never allow pets to ingest these chemicals. When you're giving bath to them, they can lick their whiskers and nose, and this may invite the chance to drink chemical residues Also, take care to protect pet eyes from all chemical, including droplets that could fly into the eyes. Chemicals are also dangerous to your children and young kids. Keep all such chemicals out of reach of children and pets in a safe place and under lock and key.

Senior Dog Care and Grooming

Grooming requirements and the level of care is very important when your dog gets old, and its need to survive the advancing age becomes very critical as well. You'll need to ensure good care and proper grooming to allow your pet old dog to live a life of honor. Strangely, as your pet dog becomes older with you, both of you'll be closer than usual and this bonding seems to be a perfectly made association for both of you.

Here are some of the tips and ideas that can help you to groom your old dog with a sense of conviction:

- Provide your dog consistently regular grooming schedules, to check for lesions, wounds, pus formation, fallen teeth, broken gum line, falling eye sight and hearing deficiency,
- If there are any visible signs of serious problems, contact your Vet immediately,
- Provide a warm and cozy bed for the pet to sleep peacefully,
- Take the pet out for a moderate exercise schedule and never stress him beyond a limit,
- Be careful when you're clipping nail buds and the tufts of grown hair, as any injury caused could become very grievous,
- Grooming involves careful brushing and dusting, because you may find the hairs start falling from the body due to brushing actions,
- Old dogs tend to loose their digestive capacities and start developing diarrhea and dehydration. Provide a carefully planned meal to cover up for the lost fluids in the body,
- Professional groomers must be contacted for checking the dental cavities for any signs of decay and diseases,
- Contact your Vet to know more about old dog care and grooming,
- Study books and magazines to learn about old dogs and their behavior,
- You may need to adjust your own behavior while dealing with your old dog ,as its capacity to respond to your commands and requests will be very slow and lethargic,
- Never force grooming on your old pet, instead create its own schedule when the dog is calm and at peace,
- Your grooming must be directed at achieving peace and happiness for the dog, and your actions must aim at creating a permanent bonding.

Choosing a Good Groomer

One of the most critical aspects of raising a pet dog in your home is grooming it to provide good health and a neat appearance. Just imagine how you would present yourself to the general public, in home or in your office. Also think how you would look, if you were not to groom yourself properly and suitably; with right personal grooming, you'll feel extra confident and presentable in front of your friends and colleagues. To make your dog healthy and happy, you must groom your dog with unfailing regularity.

Usually, the most mundane grooming job could be handled by yourself and in your own home. These may include bathing, brushing and health management. A regularly maintained grooming schedule will bring you and your dog very close and will also create a close bondage. Apart from this close relationship, you can also keep a tab on its general health, fur, skin, hair, teeth, ears and feet. In fact, it is not really surprising to discover many small invisible problems, infections and abnormalities during a thorough grooming routine.



But, grooming is not only an art, but also a skill and a defined science, as it involves many standard and established procedures. You may ask a question to yourself, as to whether you take your pet to a professional groomer for advanced grooming. The basic answer to this question depends on your ability to perform grooming and the breed of dog. Short coated dogs are easy to groom and maintain, while long haired dogs are often very tedious to groom and manage. If you have a dog that has a hairy body or double coat, you may really find the grooming experience very painful and task oriented. If you feel that you can't handle the dog yourself, you can consider taking your dog to a professional groomer for advanced grooming.

Before you take your dog to a professional groomer, you'll need to know some basic aspects of grooming:

What is grooming?

Grooming is more than just a simple hair cut or a bath. It may include combing, brushing, clipping nails, cutting mats, cleaning ears, controlling external parasites and maintaining a good health.

Why choose a professional groomer?

There are several reasons for choosing a professional groomer to groom your pet dog.

These reasons may include the following:

- You may not have the required time for grooming,
- You may be very inexperienced in general grooming,
- You may not have right tools required for grooming,
- You may have physical disability to perform the grooming operations,
- You may feel that professional groomers do better job than you, to make your dog look and feel better.

Note: Some special dogs like poodles will need their fur groomed into certain styles and it may be very difficult for an owner to create these special styles. Under these circumstances, you'll need the help of a professional groomer.

There are many occasions when you need a professional groomer such as:

- Regular or seasonal clipping of hair and coat,
- Medicated and scented bath and showers,
- Removal of bad odor and harmful substances,
- Cutting and grooming matted hair knots and curls,
- Getting your dog ready for all contests and exhibitions

Typically, a trained dog grooming professional will be more adept at handling all dogs irrespective of their breeds, and he or she can be more humane and safe while handling your dog. They are also skilled in knowing more difficult grooming procedures and are masters of handling frightened, scared and aggressive dogs. But remember that these professionals are human too and you may need to be very patient with them when they are at the grooming job.

Caution: Removing overgrown matt is a tricky job and should always be performed by a seasoned professional to avoid accidental and dangerous cuts on the skin!

Where can I find a good dog groomer?

Choosing a good groomer who is well experienced in the job of grooming is often very difficult and risky. There are thousands of groomers scattered around the country and choosing the best among them is actually a Herculean task. It is just like finding a good painter or a well experienced plumber! To find a good groomer you may need to conduct your own research and searching operations.

To help you out, here are some helpful hints and ideas:

- Seek opinions from your friends and colleagues on how to choose a good groomer. Most of the people do have a dog at their homes and they will certainly know about some groomers who are seasoned and skilled,
- Meet your Vet doctor and seek professional inputs to know the ways that will help you to choose the best groomer,
- Meet your pet shop owner and ask about the best groomer in town,
- Sit down with a Yellow Pages directory and select a few phone numbers,
- Contact your local kennel club and ask about the groomers,
- Log on to the internet web sites and start researching to find the best groomer.

Though governmental agencies do not control the activities of dog groomers, some of the groomers are either registered or certified by established grooming schools and professional kennel associations and clubs. You can check with the business bureaus to examine, if the groomer you're going to select has any serious complaints registered against him or her. Once you narrow down your search, shortlist a few of them and inquire about their service and amenities. Also seek current client list with who they are associated with.

How do I evaluate and examine a grooming facility?

Before choosing a groomer, you'll need to look into certain factors that may provide enough indication to say if the groomer is good or not. Here are some factors to consider during your evaluation and examination:

- Is the grooming area well-lit and aerated sufficiently?
- Does it look aesthetic and smell good?
- Does the staff appear caring and concerned about your dog? Do they handle pets with care and affection?
- Are dog cages adequately sized and enough for easy movement? Are dogs caged in separate enclosures or herded in a small space with other dogs?
- Are pets monitored regularly to prevent accidents and injuries?

- Does the groomer maintain systematic pet grooming records? Does the groomer have the ability to provide necessary information on previous grooming cases?
- Does the groomer have the required experience and skill needed for the job? Has the groomer completed all the necessary grooming courses?
- Is the groomer affiliated to any professional institutions or organizations?
- How is the overall attitude? Is the groomer customer friendly?
- Does the facility display the required set of tools for the job?
- Is the groomer devoted to the assigned task of grooming?

Approximate grooming cost?

Overall grooming cost may vary wildly depending on:

- ✓ The locality where you live and the distance from your place to the grooming facility,
- ✓ Dog breed and size,
- ✓ Severity of the dog's condition, mat volume and hair length,
- ✓ Perceived simplicity or toughness of the pending job

Across the country, the prices may vary depending on the local conditions, but usually the charges do vary from place to place. An average rate for shampoo and brushing is around \$40, while a simple cut may cost you \$45. You're expected to dish out much more, if the severity of mat is too complex. There are mobile dog grooming services which call at your door and these services are always costlier than the one which operate in a fixed facility.

My dog is too scared!

It is expected that your pet gets adjusted to the rigors of grooming schedules. It is also very important for your dog to tolerate extended sessions of grooming, regardless of how many times it is groomed in a month. Though it is very difficult to initiate grooming at your home, you may need to start the process slowly and gradually so that the pet starts liking the process.

You can start to dispel its apprehensions and fears by reassuring it with close petting and brushing. Start brushing him very slowly soon after the dog is fed with its morning food. Gradually introduce specialized tools and accessories. Once you finish the day's job, reward the pet with a treat. Professional grooming starts right at your home, when you make your pet accept the fact that he is being taken out for a professional grooming session.

The first visit

Before you take your pet for a professional grooming session make sure that:

- The dog is up to date on its vaccination schedules,
- The pet is treated for all diseases and maladies,
- Inform your groomer that you're coming to the site with your pet,
- Your groomer should know if your dog has any chronic illness and conditions,
- If your dog needs anesthesia before grooming, you'll need to invite a professional Veterinarian for administering the tranquilizer shot.
- When you leave your pet for grooming, and before you leave the place, hug your dog very briefly and never show any emotions in front of the dog.
- Never be too emotional! This may hurt the overall purpose! After all, you need a beautifully groomed dog that is clean and neat!

After Grooming

Once the grooming is over, you can take your pet back to your home with a sense of happiness and pride. You will know that you've a cute pet in your arms! Shower your affection and hug the pet soon after grooming. Your dog will like you doing all these acts. Collect the grooming record from your groomer and check the entries. Fix the next appointment with your groomer and say a big thank you!

Do you need a pet sitter?

If you're a constant traveler or of your spouse is also working, then you may wish to hire the services of a pet sitter to maintain and groom your dog. Pet sitters can do much more than provide your pet with food and water while you are on a long travel session. A pet sitter can also tend to the unusual requirements of your dog, provide exercises and call a Vet if there are any medical emergencies. You can also employ a pet sitter to provide additional services like tending to gardens and looking after your home when you both are away.

A pet sitter will offer you many benefits like:

From your pet's angle:

- ✓ Your pet will get the ambience in which he can be very comfortable,
- ✓ Almost similar diet and exercise routine,
- ✓ Relief from co-traveling with its owner to far away places and experiencing the difficulties,

- ✓ Care and attention when you're traveling out.

From your personal angle:

- ✓ Preventing undue burden on your friends and colleagues by not requesting them to look after your dog when you're away,
- ✓ A feeling of reassurance in your mind that tells you that your dog is safe and doing well,
- ✓ Sundry work and duties could be performed by the pet sitter on an extra payment.

How do I find a pet sitter?

To find a good pet sitter is quite easy as there are several agencies and bureaus which provide a list of pet sitter in your area. You can contact the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (www.petsitters.org) or Pet Sitters International (www.petsit.com) for a reference and list of pet sitters.

What should I look for in a pet sitter?

Before selecting a pet sitter, conduct a survey over the phone or by making personal visits. It is also important to know everything about prospective pet sitter's overall qualifications and service experience. You can also find out the following:

- The type and level of training received,
- Is the pet sitter ready to provide a written proof statement that there is liability insurance for unforeseen damages to your pet due to negligence?
- Pet sitter's ability to mix with your dog- Is the pet sitter doing job with a sense of conviction?
- Will the pet sitter agree to provide sundry services like garden tending, house keeping and dog walking?
- Will the pet sitter sign a written contract with you?
- Will the pet sitter provide you a list of people who sought pet sitting service from her or him?
- If the pet sitter is ready to provide live-in services, what are the specific times that are agreed? Will it be recorded in the written contract?

- In case the pet sitter falls sick, will there be any availability of a backup service? What are the qualifications of the backup?
- Will the pet sitter agree to mention the expected remuneration and allowances in the written contract?

Whatever you do and however you select a pet sitter, make sure that you interview all the prospective candidates to know their mind and aspirations. Do not hurry while choosing a pet sitter. By selecting the best pet sitter you can leave your dog with a peace of mind, fully knowing that it is absolutely safe in the hands of the pet sitter.

How do you help your pet sitter?

Even the most qualified pet sitter will face problems and undue hassles, if you've not kept your promises and assurances. Here are some of the mandatory duties which need to be ensured by you:

- ✓ Inform your pet sitter about your travel plans, the date on which you're traveling and the expected time of arrival,
- ✓ Ensure that your dog is socialized, so that it can mix with strangers with ease,
- ✓ Make sure that the dog is collared with an identification tag,
- ✓ Provide a report on the dog's health status, vaccination report and the type of medicines that are usually provided when the dog is sick,
- ✓ Provide a detailed list of pet sitter's duties and responsibilities, and make sure that the pet sitter understands your needs and requirements,
- ✓ Leave all pet food, supplies and medicines in one place,
- ✓ Do not forget to buy extra dog food and grooming supplies (to ensure a constant supply in case there is a need),
- ✓ Show the pet sitter your home's security installations and other guarding features,
- ✓ Never forget to take your pet sitter's home phone number, in case your travel plans change suddenly.

All about Mobile Dog Grooming

There is a good and convenient option for dog owners to get their pet dogs groomed at their own convenience and in their own driveway! This new system of grooming is called “Mobile Dog Grooming” and it is also a perfect system that offers your dog its own comfort and safety.

Mobile grooming business operators bring their shop right in front of your home and provide you grooming services. The mobile dog grooming van is well equipped with a convenient bath tub, warm water supply, grooming table, hair dryer, coat clippers and all other necessary grooming supplies. If you do not have an electrical outlet, they can even bring their own generator in their maxi van. The only thing they may ask you for their grooming services is tub or two of water for washing your dog.

There are several advantages of using the services of a mobile dog groomer such as:

- Significant savings in costs and expenditure of transporting the dog, to and back, from the grooming house,
- Savings in time spent for traveling,
- Owners can check-in and see how their dog is doing,
- Provide necessary help to the mobile groomers and learn something from them,
- You can tell the groomer about your needs and requirements

There are several advantages and benefits for your dog as well:

- Dogs must be left alone with a professional groomer and you're not expected to be with your dog while the grooming session is in progress,
- Your dog may feel scared and frightened with a professional groomer,
- Most probably, your dog will be held in a cage till his grooming turn arrives,
- Professional grooming may become a really bad experience for your dog,
- With a mobile groomer, your dog will feel confident and be at home

Using a mobile groomer's service could be an exciting experience both for you as well as your pet dog. The biggest advantage of using a mobile groomer outweighs all other perceived negative aspects and disadvantages.

Dog Owner's Responsibility and Duties

"When you believe there is no love in the world, just gaze into the eyes of the cat in your lap or the dog on your hearth." ~ Welsh Poem

Anyone can be a dog owner, whether it is bought from a breeder or received from their friends as a gift, or even brought home as an orphan dog. However, owning a dog is a simple thing, but grooming and managing it is a different ball game altogether. Your dog needs all the life you can provide it throughout its short lifetime. It expects a lot of things from you, loads of affection and tons of care!

If you're really responsible towards your dog, you'll ensure that you provide the following:

1. A happy home,
2. Proper health care and nutrition,
3. Discipline and training to control the actions of the pet,
4. Set aside regular exercise and grooming schedule, and
5. Clean it up to ensure hygiene and cleanliness.



Your pet is your preferred privilege and a life long commitment. With calculated grooming and caring sessions, you ensure a dog that is loved by everyone including your neighbors! Apart from you, cooperation and assistance is required from every member of your family. Make sure that grooming becomes a team work! Remind them that owning a dog is a liability as well as a lifelong commitment. Never deviate from the grooming schedule and set aside some time for everyone in

your family. Assign individual grooming activities to everyone in your family- your son for walking and your daughter for feeding!

Before you buy your puppy, you must ask yourself some critical questions to your mind and ensure proper answers:

1. Can you do a justice to your future pet dog? Will you be completely responsible to its life and actions?
2. Do you have sufficient space in your home to accommodate your new entrant? Can you assure your dog enough space and area for minimum exercise sessions?

3. Will your pet dog be a nuisance to your neighbor? Will you be responsible for its discipline and manners? Will you teach your pet dog obedience training?
4. Will you be able to devote a certain amount of time for its general care and grooming? What about your spouse and children, if you have them?
5. If you and your family members are away from your home for some time, who is going to look after them? Will you appoint a pet sitter?
6. If you have an old dog, your duties may increase abnormally and exponentially! Are you ready to take this new additional responsibility as well?

If you find that your answers are mostly negative, then you may need to think twice before bringing a new puppy to your home.

Just remember!

Your dog is a lifetime commitment and an additional responsibility! You will need to reconcile to this undeniable fact!

Here are some more tips to help you understand the nitty-gritty of owning a dog:

- **Spay or neuter your dog** to prevent excessive litters and unwanted progeny. By neutering your dog, you can prevent the risk of reproductive cancer and other bad effects.
- **Ensure that your dog is provided an authentic identification tag** so that you can detect it in case of pet theft!
- **Visit your Vet regularly** to ensure health and well being of the dog.
- **Have Pet Insurance** to cover the unforeseen losses in the future.
- **Take your dog for regular exercises** to keep it hale and healthy.
- **Give quality food (with all the right ingredients), water and warm shelter** to make your dog feel at home.
- **Ensure that your dog gets proper obedience training and discipline schedule as a well trained dog will not be a nuisance to you, as well as your neighbors.**
- **Regular cleaning up acts** to make sure that you're not leaving the dog excreta open in the public parks and pathways.
- **Complete and an efficient Grooming schedule** to keep your dog presentable and hygienic!

Interesting Facts on Dog Grooming

Historical evidences have shown the fact that humans have been fond of dogs since many thousands of years. Dogs were perceived as very useful during the early Egyptian history and its importance was realized as early as 4000 BC. As the timeline started receding, dogs invariably became a part of human life and they were aptly called “men’s best friend”. Though there are records of dogs being domesticated as early as 4000 BC, records of dog grooming do not exist till now.

Though dogs were raised as pet dogs in the royal courts of kings and queens, there is no recorded evidence to show that dogs were groomed as one would do today. However, the early Elizabethan era shows us that there was an attempt to groom dog on a scientific and methodic way; though the method of grooming is still unclear, evidences show that royal dogs were kept very clean and tidy. Shearing dog’s coat was the most favorite grooming activity of the day.

France was assumed to be the epicenter of dog grooming activity and it was so well practiced in the early 16th and 17th century. The years of King Louis XV reveal the first official recordings of dog grooming activities and dog grooming parlors. As the time lapsed from the 17th century to 20th century, dog grooming was considered an important activity and there were several innovations in the dog grooming industry.

Here are some interesting facts on dog grooming with respect to its history and practice:

- In the 17th century France royal court, poodle was the official dog and this dog was groomed to suit the tastes of royal ladies,
- Dogs of renaissance era were highly sophisticated and premium; many retrievers were the royal dogs and they enjoyed the same status as their masters!
- Continental clip was the most famous grooming style with these retrievers and the grooming service was provided by professional groomers called “demoiselles”,
- By 19th century, dog grooming became famous in the continent of Europe,
- By 18th century, dog grooming became famous in England as well and the most favorite grooming activities were washing, grooming, and coat conditioning,
- Though most of the animals were used as beasts to carry out transportation work during the early part of the millennium, their importance is not felt in the modern era due to the advent of mechanical transport system. Examples are Ox, Bullocks, Donkeys, Camels and Horses,

- But, dogs are still loved by most of the people in the world and they are considered as one of the favorite pets apart from cats,
- Dog barber shops started operating sometime during 1940's in the European mainland and North American continent,
- Due to non existence of air conditioners, these barber shops used seat shops to dry the coat of dogs. But these shops were very hot and dogs used to undergo the ritual with absolute agony,
- Trimming was laborious without electric clippers and modern supplies. There used to be a number of heat related deaths and injuries during these years,
- The late 1940's and early 50's started watching dog grooming industry becoming somewhat organized,
- During these years people started using mechanical grooming tools and employed novel methods of grooming.
- During 1950's there was a big boom in the market for dogs and cats, people realized their importance as a domesticated pet,
- Small toy and game dogs became instant hit with the people and fortunately, the awareness for grooming also started picking up along with an explosion in the dog population,
- During 1960's people in Europe and America started learning the secrets of dog grooming,
- Late 60's and early 70's saw the advent of crazy grooming style and highly sophisticated grooming tools,
- By 1970's hundreds of different breeds of dogs were admitted into the most famous kennel clubs of the world,
- By 1970's, there was a twofold increase in dog grooming subject and it became a business of large turnover when hundreds of men and women aspired for a dog grooming career,
- By late 1970's and early 80's, dog grooming became multimillion dollar industry and there were many new innovations with respect to dog health and nutrition,
- Grooming needs were realized for working and herd dogs as well and rural dogs were also given grooming treatment by their masters,
- By late 80's and throughout 1990's there was burst of grooming activity all over the world and currently, it is a expanding industry and a profitable business,
- Mobile groomers also started appearing on the streets during this period and this facility offered people a really good opportunity to groom their dog in their own homes.

Today, dog grooming is a well understood subject and dog owners provide regular grooming facilities to their dogs.

Exhibition and Contest Dog Grooming

To exhibit your pet dog in well-known exhibitions or in regional contests, the help and experience of seasoned hair dressers from dog grooming saloons becomes mandatory and essential. Without their help you it is a bit difficult to present your dog in a dignified way. Some of the dog breeds have long and flowing hair and they need occasional trimming to control their hair growth. While, other breeds may not really need any hair grooming at all due to their flat coat and low hair growth. When you take your dog to a grooming saloon the first thing the hair dresser will do is to give your dog a perfect bath to remove dirt, grime, soil and entangled loose hair mass. However, your dog hairdresser may first trim the extra hair and remove all visible hair entanglements and then proceed with the bath.

Some dog breeds like poodles need frequent visit to these beauty saloons to have their hair trimmed and washed, while others just need a few visits in a year. To prepare your dog for contents and exhibitions, proper presentation becomes critical along with their discipline and obedience. There are many types of hair styles that can be seen on dogs and each of these styles is essentially a distinctive type of hair cut and hair-do.

Here are some popular hair styles of pet dogs and these hair styles are special to some dog breeds:

- Lamb Cut: The hair is cut off at an uniform and equal length and poodles are provided this style,
- Dutch Cut: More attractive and stylish than the Lamb Cut. In this style, the short hair of the body contrasts itself with the long hair of the legs,
- Lion Look: This is a difficult style of all the available styles, but looks exotic on the dog's body! This style is also more expensive as well as time consuming. This hair style is also used widely for canine exhibitions.

Dog grooming for exhibition is often very cumbersome and difficult as judges examine and look at each and every part of your dog's body. Any disparity in the hair style and all defects in the dressing could prove costly and disadvantageous to your dog. Preparing your dog for contests and exhibition requires a good amount of dedication, planning and artistic outlook apart from a good breed of dog. Dogs like Old English Shepherd, Spaniels, Poodles, Airedale Terriers and West Highland Terriers display unusually complex coat with flowing hairs; such hairs are always difficult to manage and you'll need the help from an experienced hair stylists working in those dog beauty saloons.





List of Resources for Dog Owners







Sites







The Dog Blog – My personal dog blog covering dog nutrition, training and anything else I can think of: <http://www.dogtreatrecipes.com.au/dogblog>

The Doggy Dispatch Blog – Daily blog posts featuring topics from dog food, training, nutrition, you name it, they got it: <http://thedoggydispatch.blogspot.com>.

Books

	<p><u>ALL 87 DOG BREED GROOMING FOR THE BEGINNER</u></p> <p>An excellent book on grooming especially designed for beginners and novice dog owners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>ALL BREED DOG GROOMING GUIDE</u></p> <p>by Sam Kohl</p> <p>One of the bestsellers in the dog industry! It provides you step by step instructions on grooming methods and techniques.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>ART & BUSINESS OF PROFESSIONAL GROOMING</u></p> <p>by Dorothy Walin</p> <p>Practical and timely help on the ways to run a grooming business, as well as methods to groom special breeds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>BORN TO WIN: BREED TO SUCCEED</u></p> <p>by Patricia V. Craige</p> <p>One of the most comprehensive dog books in the world. It is also one of the definitive books containing every aspect of dog and its habits.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>

	<p><u>DOG SHOWING FOR BEGINNERS</u></p> <p>by Lynn Hall</p> <p>A simple, yet effective book for beginners. It tells you everything about dog breeds and their grooming methods</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>GREAT AMERICAN DOG SHOW GAME</u></p> <p>by Alvin Grossman</p> <p>It tells you in detail how you can groom your dog for exhibitions and contents. One of the simplest books to read and understand.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>GROOMING YOUR DOG: A NATURAL & HERBAL APPROACH</u></p> <p>by Paula Kephart</p> <p>Simple book with plenty grooming information. It is also an easy to comprehend book with plenty of illustration and diagrams.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>GROOMING YOUR GOLDEN VIDEO</u></p> <p>by Patricia McCoy-Coleman</p> <p>Visual reference guide to your dog grooming. It provides you practical tips on how you can groom your Golden Retriever.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>GUIDE TO HOME PET GROOMING</u></p> <p>by Chris C. Pinney</p> <p>Very well-known book on dog grooming! It is recommended to those novice dog owners who are just started learning dog grooming.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO SHELTYE GROOMING</u></p> <p>by Barb Ross</p> <p>A step by step guide to groom your Sheltie! Useful for Sheltie owners to groom their dog with some great effects.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>

	<p><u>IN THE HANDS OF STRANGERS</u></p> <p>by JoAnna Thompson</p> <p>A starter guide to dog grooming process. You can learn how to find a good groomer who can take care of your dog with care.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>NOTES FROM THE GROOMING TABLE</u></p> <p>by Melissa Verplank</p> <p>A practical guide to everyday dog grooming! A professional treatise by an experienced groomer!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>SHOW ME! A DOG SHOWING PRIMER</u></p> <p>by D. Caroline Coile</p> <p>One of the best books on exhibition dogs and their grooming! You can learn grooming as a means to showcase your dog!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>SHOW OFF YOUR DOG: GROOMING BASICS VIDEO</u></p> <p>by Ena Lane</p> <p>A well composed video for teaching your how to groom your dog! By seeing this video, you can learn many exiting ways of dog grooming!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>SIMPLE GUIDE TO GROOMING YOUR DOG</u></p> <p>by Eve Adamson & Sandy Roth</p> <p>As the book suggests, it is a very simple and easy guide that tells you everything about dog grooming!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>STONE GUIDE TO DOG GROOMING FOR ALL BREEDS</u></p> <p>by Ben and Pearle Stone</p> <p>An excellent guide for dog grooming and there are many techniques and secrets of dog grooming, all explained in an easy way!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>

	<p><u>THE WINNING EDGE: SHOW RING SECRETS</u></p> <p>by George G. Alston</p> <p>Learn how to create a well groomed dog for show rings and exhibitions. An excellent practical manual!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>
	<p><u>ULTIMATE DOG GROOMING - COMPLETE GUIDE TO 170 DOG BREEDS</u></p> <p>by Eileen Geeson</p> <p>Really a complete guide to dog grooming! Learn many methods and techniques to groom your dog at your own home!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>MORE INFO</u></p>

There are several other books and magazines on dog grooming and you may check them in your favorite library or bookshop or over an internet book club. Apart from books and periodicals, you can also check those fabulous instructional videos available in many web sites.

Pet Grooming Resources

Pet Age (grooming trade section)
H.H. Backer Associates, Inc

200 S. Michigan, Suite 840
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-663-4040
Fax: 312-663-5676
Go to www.hhbacker.com

Pet Business (grooming section)
McFadden Pet Business

233 Park Avenue South, 6th Floor
New York, New York 10003
212-979-4800
Fax: 212-228-3142
Go to www.petbusiness.com

Groomer to Groomer (magazine)
Barkleigh Publications, Inc.

6 State Road, Suite 113
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17050
717-691-3388
Fax: 717-691-3381
Go to www.barkleigh.com

Off Lead (magazine)
Barkleigh Publications, Inc.

6 State Road, Suite 113
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17050
717-691-3388
Fax: 717-691-3381
Go to www.groomexpo.com/index.html

Groomer's Voice (newsletter)

National Dog Groomer's Association of America, Inc.
Post Office Box 101
Clark, Pennsylvania 16113
724-962-2711
Fax: 724-962-1919
Go to www.nationaldoggroomers.com

The Groomer's Gazette Quarterly

Delores McGifford
P.O. Box 609
Dayton, NV 89404
775-241-0340
thegroomersgazette@ableweb.net

Northern Groomers (United Kingdom) (magazine)

c/o Canine Cuts
20 Bridge Road

Colinton, Edinburgh EH130LQ
UNITED KINGDOM
Go to www.northerngroomers.co.uk

Breed Grooming Certification

N.D.G.A.A.

National Dog Groomers Assn. of America

Telephone: 724-962-2711

ndga@nationaldoggroomers.com

www.nationaldoggroomers.com I.S.C.C.

International Society of Canine Cosmetologists (I.S.C.C.)

Telephone: 972-414-9715

iscc@gte.net I.P.G.

International Professional Groomers, Inc. (I.P.G.)

Telephone: 800--258-4765

jkurpie1@aol.com

The Pet's Bill of Rights

We have the right to be full members of your family.
We thrive on social interaction, praise, and love.

We have the right to stimulation. We need new games,
new toys, new experiences, and new smells to be
happy.

We have the right to regular exercise. Without it,
we could become hyper, sluggish...or fat.

We have the right to have fun. We enjoy acting like
clowns now and then; don't expect us to be
predictable all the time.

We have the right to quality health care. Please
stay good friends with our vet!

We have the right to a good diet. Like some people,
we don't know what's best for us. We depend on you.

We have the right not to be rejected because of your
expectations that we be great show dogs or show
cats, watchdogs, hunters, or baby-sitters.

We have the right to receive proper training.
Otherwise, our good relationship could be marred by
confusion and strife - and we could become dangerous
to ourselves and others.

We have the right to guidance and correction based
on understanding and compassion, rather than abuse.

We have the right to live with dignity...and to die
with dignity when the time comes.

---Author Unknown